JUDA'S EVIL RULERS, LESSONS FROM

Sept. 24, 1961

Lessons from the Bad Kings of this Quarter.

Of the twelve lessons studied during the past three months, four concern the wrong doings of bad kings. Of the five Judean rulers, three must be placed on the bad list. Three kings out of five against God, against the best interests of their nation and people, and against all common decency! Because of the wrongdoings of Manasseh who destroyed his father's good works, of Jehoiakim who burned the word of God, and of Zedekiah, the weakling, Judea suffered ~~captivity thrice~~. her Great Captivity. Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Caldeans, some of her inhabitants massacred, the remainder exiled. Banished not only from their native land, but from their God! Husbands were separated from their wives, and children were torn from their parents. Because of three sinful rulers, the Judeans lost their God, lost their nation, lost their homes and lost their independence. What a price to pay for sinful pleasures!

Can we excuse their sins on any ground whatever? By all means "No!" for God had sent his chosen messengers unto them who warned the kings and the people constantly. Even the sins of Manasseh which were forgiven bore their fatal consequences regardless of that kings repentance.

Now let us see what this topic contains for you and me.

1stly. We can well be convinced that the wages of sin are ~~death~~ certain death, a death more terible than the physical, for sin destroys the spiritual life, the only everlasting part of a human being.

2ndly. Our sins help to send others to perdition. It is this that makes sin so awful. Whenever we do wrong we harm three times. We hurt God, we hurt the ones against whom we do the wrong, but we hurt ourselves most of all.

3rdly. Whereas we of today have Christ Jesus our Saviour and the entire Word of God along with two thousand years of human experience for example unto us, our little sins are less pardonable

than the great mongolings of Manasseh Jehoiakim and Zedekiah.

4thly. Therefore it behooves us to harken unto the words of Jesus "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

5thly. Having taken these words to heart, let us one and all give ourselves to the God that we might not perish but have everlasting life. You boys and girls give your hearts to christ now. You cannot begin too soon to live a life of goodness and usefulness. Trust in God and do as the right.

We who are trying to serve the master, can go to our Heavenly Father and give ourselves up more fully unto Him. Every time I plead earnestly with God to help me, he takes away something that does not belong in me, and draws me closer into his presence. We cannot get too close to God. May we be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. May we be living examples for good, trusting in the Lord always.

Lessons from Judah Bad Kings